



Muswellbrook High School

Newsletter 2

23rd March 2012



Principal Report

The term 'March Madness' that has been used extensively in television advertisements lately could equally apply to the last four weeks here at Muswellbrook High School since our last newsletter. Busy to say the least. Although relatively early in the school year, there have already been some outstanding individual and team achievements in the areas of public speaking, agriculture and sport, many of these are covered in articles in this newsletter.

I have now completed over 70 new enrolment interviews for 2012 and would like to formally welcome our new students and families to our school. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet all of our new students and their parents and trust that they will find their time at Muswellbrook High School engaging and rewarding.

Relay for Life



STUDENTS GO PURPLE: Muswellbrook High School students get behind Paint the Town Purple day.



BEST DRESSED: Bronwyn Tier, Nick Muldihill and Meg Haig help year 9 student Emily Soy show off her purple power at Muswellbrook High School.

The school has strongly supported the Relay for Life cause for a number of years and this year we have taken our support to a new level. Not only has the school again entered a number of teams in the event, but we have been busy raising funds by dressing up for 'Purple Day', along with a range of student led initiatives including cake stalls, chocolate raffles and car washes, raising thousands of dollars already. I look forward to participating with many of our staff, students and parents in a few weeks time at this important community event.

Dare to Lead Snapshot

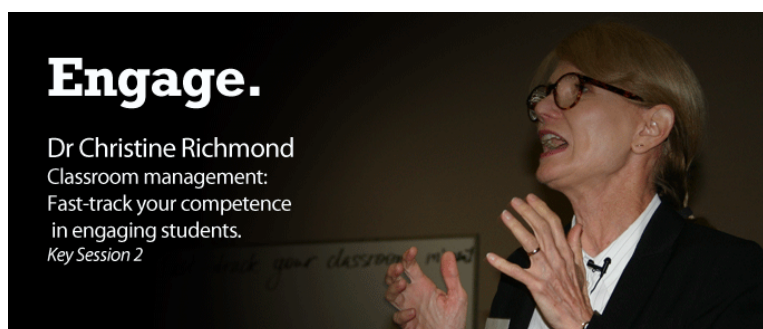
Dare to Lead



...partnership builds success

The school recently hosted Ian Neubauer and Mark Crouch from the Dare to Lead Organisation who conducted a two-day 'snapshot' of Aboriginal Education programs in the school. Thank you to all of the parents, staff, students and community members who gave up their time to be interviewed as part of the review process. We have now been provided with a comprehensive report highlighting the things that we are doing well and the areas for improvement. With our Aboriginal Education plan now written for the School Management Plan 2012-2014, great programs like Polly Farmer, Norta Norta and 100% Knights in place and a talented and committed Aboriginal education team, we are now in a better position than ever in continuing to 'close the gap'.

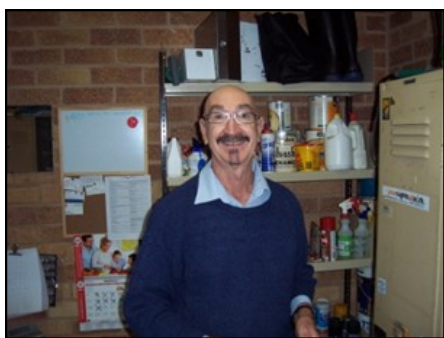
Staff Development Day



The school has received permission to move the Staff Development Day, originally scheduled for the first day of Term 2, 2012, to Thursday, 5 April, 2012. The reason behind this move is to bring highly sought after educational speaker, Dr Christine Richmond, to present to all staff from schools in the Muswellbrook and Denman areas. Muswellbrook High School will be hosting all of our feeder Primary school staff including, Muswellbrook Public, Muswellbrook South, Denman and Martindale. As a result, all students from these schools will begin their Easter holiday break one day early and return to school on Monday, 23 April, 2012.

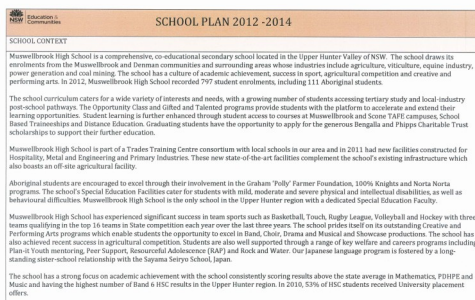
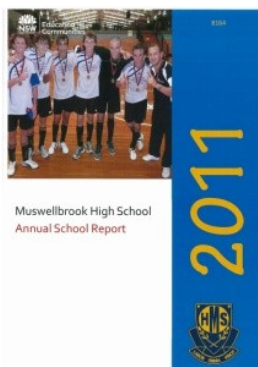
School Grounds and improvement projects

Thank you for all of the people who have commented positively on the school grounds over the last few weeks. Whilst the continuous rain and mild conditions have certainly helped keep the grass green, it has also meant a schedule of almost constant mowing. I wanted to acknowledge the hard work done in recent months by our General Assistant, Colin Carter, and special projects grounds staff Shane McGahen and Shaun Christian in bringing the school grounds up to a high standard of care.



However, there is still a long way to go in implementing our plans for grounds improvement over the next few years. Projects from 2011 that are well advanced, but still to be completed, include the agricultural fencing, MPC/Driveway upgrade and Aboriginal Education area. In addition, this year we are looking to focus on the back area of the school with the completion of a new pathway built by our Construction students, the removal and rebuilding of the retaining wall at L Block, the construction of a shade house, and the re-cladding of the tractor shed. We are also going to undertake an extensive program for the removal of African Olive plants, palms and mistletoe that are growing around the school grounds. There will also be work done to the roofing and guttering and an upgrade of the Year 12 area.

School Management Plan and Annual School Report



The School Management Plan 2012-2014 and Annual School Report (ASR) 2011 will be available on the new school website from Monday, 3 April, 2012. For parents looking for comprehensive reporting on a school's overall performance there is no better place to get this information than the ASR. The School Management Plan is also a useful guide to the educational direction to be taken by a school over the three years that the plan covers.

In the News



<http://www.muswellbrookchronicle.com.au/news/local/news/general/youths-put-to-test/2474901.aspx>

Gareth Erskine
Principal

2012 DER-NSW Parent Survey

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We seek your views on the NSW one-to-one laptop program.

A formal evaluation of the program is being undertaken by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training in collaboration with the University of Wollongong. It is an effort to determine how the DER-NSW program may impact on learning and teaching education across the state. The evaluation has taken place over 3 years.

Please go to the link below and complete the 2012 survey. It won't take you too long.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DER-NSWPr2012?c=8164>

To access the link please enter it into the long address bar at the top of the page of your internet browser (not into a search engine such as Google) and press enter or go – this will take you to the survey.

Individuals cannot be identified in the data.

Evaluation reports to date can be viewed online: <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/about-us/how-we-operate/national-partnerships/digital-education-revolution/rrql/research>.

Thank you for assisting us.

Department of Education and Communities

Deputy Principal Report

Knowing Your Child's Teacher

Recently we had our first Parent / Teacher evenings for 2012. It was great to see so many parents interested in making a connection with the school and, most importantly, with the teachers. I can't emphasise enough how this can make a difference to your child's education.

Here are some hints:

Meeting face-to-face is best, but when this isn't possible, writing notes and emails or making phone calls are all ways that parents and teachers can agree to communicate – just check with the school first. This applies in primary and high school.

It's important to have a good relationship with your child's teacher and the best way to start it is by saying hello.

Like any relationship, the one with your child's teachers involves mutual respect and ongoing effort from both sides.

Jennifer Marshall, a teacher at Oatlands Public School, says everyone wins, especially the child, when there is good communication between parents and teachers.

"Having a friendly relationship can benefit the child at home and at school. Parents can help identify certain behaviours that are happening at school but not at home and vice versa," Jennifer says.

"They can also help teachers identify children's strengths, weaknesses and personality traits, which can help tailor the teaching to suit their child's needs."

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/knowning-your-childs-teacher>

At a glance:

- ⇒ Say hello to your child's teacher/s at the beginning of the school year.
- ⇒ A friendly relationship with the teacher/s can benefit your child at school and at home.
- ⇒ Share with the teacher/s your child's strengths, weaknesses and any health issues.
- ⇒ Make an appointment to see the teacher/s about anything important to you.
- ⇒ Talk to your child's teacher/s about any changes in the home that may affect your child's learning.

Brian Drewe
Deputy Principal



Attendance

A condition of enrolment at any Public School in NSW is that your child **MUST** be sent to school every day. A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (eg a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note
- telephone the school, or reply to the sms messages
- visit the school.

All absences must be explained to the school within seven (7) days of the absence.

The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school. The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Partial attendance will only be justified for the above reasons.

Students who require partial attendance **MUST** bring a signed note clearly detailing the reason for their partial absence to E-Block prior to roll call and receive a partial absence pass.

The following reasons are **NOT** considered as justified absence:

- birthdays
- shopping
- minding other children
- routine check ups or care such as hair cuts
- minor family events
- sleeping in.

Medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

Students with regular attendance issues may be referred to the Home School Liaison Officer or Aboriginal Student Liaison Officer to develop a program for support. **Continued attendance issues can lead to prosecution of the parent/caregiver.**

Further information can be accessed from the following brochure.

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/languagesupport/sch_attendance/parent_brochure/par_english.pdf

DID YOU KNOW you can access your child's attendance record and details on Millennium via the Parent Portal? For further information and access to this facility please contact the school.

Mr. N. Mulvihill
Head Teacher Administration

English Report

The year in English has commenced with a whirlwind of activity. In February, Year 12 Standard and Advanced students travelled to Sydney University to participate in a series of Study Day Lectures. Covering the language analysis, creative writing and 'Crucible' components of Belonging, Paper One, the excursion proved to be a worthwhile experience, even if the early morning start made for some rather exhausted participants by the end of the day.



Year 12 English
Students on the
recent Study Day
Excursion



Year 12 and Year 11 students also offered commendable performances when they represented the school by participating in the Lions and Lioness Youth of the Year Competition. Tamara Petersen and Petra Franks were selected to compete at Zone level and Petra went on to contest the Regional Final in Singleton. The quest involves an intensive interview, a five-minute prepared speech and two impromptu speeches. The quality of all students was particularly high and congratulations should be extended in recognition of their positive and committed involvement.

Tamara Petersen and Petra Franks.
Muswellbrook Council Chambers to
compete in the Zone Final of the
Youth of the Year Quest.

In March, the English Faculty was privileged to host Bell Shakespeare's Actors at Work. The highly entertaining performances: 'Midsummer Madness', a comedy presented to Years 8 and 9, and 'Macbeth Undone' a creative reworking of one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies for Years 10 and 11, were well received by both audiences. Their popularity and appreciation was clearly demonstrated by the large number of students who remained behind at recess and lunch after viewing the shows, to discuss what they had seen or ask questions about Shakespeare and Drama in general. BHP Billiton sponsors this event each year and their continuing support in enabling such a valuable cultural experience to be made so readily available to our students is greatly appreciated.



Years 8 and 9 English
Students enjoying
Bell Shakespeare's 'Actors
at Work'.

As the end of Term approaches it is an important time for English Assessment. Students in Years 7 and 9 will commence preparation for the upcoming NAPLAN testing in Term 2. Years 10 and Year 11 will be participating in respective Spoken Text Assessment and Year 12 classes will complete their second Assessment Task prior to their Half Yearly Examinations.

Students who wish to partake in extra curricular activities such as MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) and the Muswellbrook High School Public Speaking Competition, will also find these opportunities advertised soon. All Year 7 and 8 classes are currently involved in the Premier's Reading Challenge and should ensure that books are brought daily to read in Roll Call.

Wishing everyone a restful and well deserved Easter break.



Mrs K Sokulsky
(Relieving Head Teacher English)

Music Report

What an epic start to the year for music! **Year 7's** have been enthusiastically arranging music in groups for their first assessments, and are now learning how to rock it out on the drum kit. Many talents are blossoming even at these early stages. **Year 8** has been experiencing the weird and wonderful sounds of orchestral instruments, whilst also learning the art of being in a rock band – '*All the Small Things*' has been taken new level of awesomeness thanks to Miss Parsons' 8MU03 class. **Year 9 elective** students are busy experiencing the grooves of African Music and creating some very funky African beats in their group compositions. We look forward to hearing them performed in week 9. **Year 10 elective** students have also donned their creative hats for a group composition task, but they are focussing on the eccentric characteristics of 20th Century Art Music. Big eye opener to their prior conceptions of 'what is music?' **Year 11** students have just completed their first preliminary HSC Music task – a Viva Voce on the topic of Film Music – and have done a fantastic job of it! We are very much looking forward to seeing what this class can achieve by the time their HSC rolls around. Our **Year 12 HSC class** have been completing their 2nd assessment task for their course which involves a 'Viva Voce' where the students have a conversation with their teacher to demonstrate their understanding of the topic – that sure beats written exams! Year 12 will also be presenting the first of their performances as they prepare their full program for term 3.



Here's hoping that Term 2 will be just as fun filled and exciting as Term 1 has been.

Miss S. Parsons & Mr J. Foy

Vocal Ensemble

Vocal Ensemble has had a nice solid start to the year, even with the few changes that have been made. Rehearsals are no longer Tuesday mornings, but are held on MONDAY mornings at 8.15am sharp in C28. This helps to free-up Tuesday mornings where we will have different ensembles performing at the fortnightly assembly. Another change that has been made is the big push for male vocals – calling all boys to join us!! I'm very keen to get an epic bass line happening and am encouraging anyone to come along to rehearsals even just to try it out for a week (boys and girls of all years welcome!). Some of the pieces we have been rehearsing include '*Empire State of Mind*' by Jay-Z & Alicia Keys, '*Africa*' by Toto, '*Beautiful Day*' by U2; and some to look forward to include '*The Resistance*' by Muse, '*21 Guns*' by Greenday and some of Michael Jackson's masterpieces.

Miss S Parsons

Concert Band & Stage Band

Term 1 has seen the establishment of a new ensemble at Muswellbrook High School, the Stage Band. Students now not only have the opportunity to broaden their skills through playing in the Concert Band, but can now join a new group that will rehearse on Thursday afternoons from 3:45 until 4:45. Please come and see Mr Foy if you are interested in finding out more. Concert Band will still rehearse on Wednesday mornings, but now starts at 8:00am.

Mr J. Foy

Westpac Helicopter Appeal and Black Coal Ball

Organisers of the Westpac Helicopter Appeal and the 'Black Coal Ball' (Joe and Margaret Matthews) have approached our year 10 Visual Arts and Visual Design students and teachers to enlist their help for a project involving the production of two large panels as decorations for the annual ball that will be held at the Muswellbrook Workers' Club in June.

Working designs for these panels are now in production, and are based on this year's theme: 'The Twenties'. Muswellbrook High School is very proud to be part of this ongoing fund-raising venture.

Mr L. Holdsworth

Visual Arts Excursion to Sydney

For the first part of the excursion our students attended a two hour workshop at the Brett Whiteley studio in Surry Hills. During the workshop they learnt about the concept and process involved in various Brett Whiteley artworks. The students sketched from paintings, drawings and sculptures displayed in the gallery using various mediums such as charcoal, pastels, progressio and collage materials.

The workshop was very inspirational for all the students on the excursion. The praise and guidance given from the gallery coordinators was very positive: "There is a lot of talent in this group. You could have your own exhibition of the work from what you have created today". The students were very happy to be attending the workshop and said: "It was well worth the effort".



The second part of the excursion was to see the Picasso Exhibition and was a huge success. The 1500 works in the exhibition were selections from his 3000 works in total that will be sent back to France to be installed in the museum built to house Picasso's works. It was a privilege to see these artworks spanning throughout his life in the 19th Century, showing his development and change of style through to his cubist period. The bronze sculptures and his 'bathers' series were very impressive. The students appreciated viewing the artworks up close. We then ventured to the Botanic Gardens to view and sketch the Opera House. The students had a wonderful day and I was very proud of their behaviour and mature attitude.



Miss A. Harris



CHS LAWNBOWLS 2012

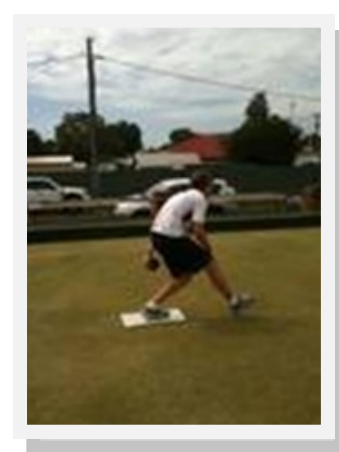
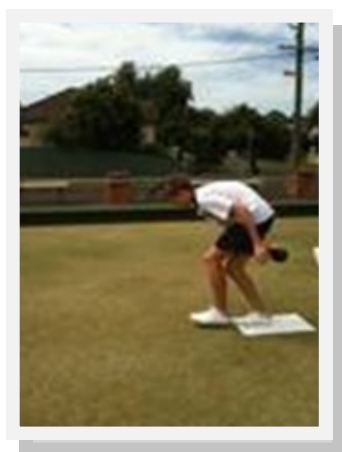
On the 1st of March 2012 the Muswellbrook High School Lawn Bowls team travelled to Singleton to play Francis Greenway High in round one of the Combined High Schools Knockout. The team consisted of Travis Merrett (Lead), Sam Tuckey (Second) and Matthew Merrett (Skip).

The team looked good in the rollup and played some excellent shots. Once the game got started most ends concluded with 1 point and were very closely contested.

At the 21st end Francis Greenway lead 19- 11. The Muswellbrook team ended the game beautifully with the highest score for the day, four points.

The boys represented the school with positive attitudes and excellent sportsmanship and look forward to competing in the competition next year.

Miss Murphy
Coach



CHS Boys Volleyball 2012

On the 17th of February 2012 the Muswellbrook High School Boys' Volleyball Team travelled to Broadmeadow Basketball stadium to compete in the Combined High Schools Volleyball Competition.

The team consisted of Year 12 students Jake Barner, Lenny Craft, Anthony Nougher and Callum Strachan and Year 11 students Beaudon Dixon, Liam King and Jayden McCarthy.

In Round 1 of the competition the team received a forfeit from Lambton High School.

In Round 2 the team played Kotara High School and won the first set 25-11 and then went on to win the second set 25-10. The game concluded after a closer third set with Muswellbrook High getting away with the win.

In Round 3 the team drew Merewether High School. The teams were extremely well matched and both played some impressive volleyball. Muswellbrook lost the first set but responded quickly with a win in the second set. Merewether then regained control of the game with a win in the third set. Whilst the fourth set was extremely tight Merewether eventually snatched the game winning 4 sets to 1.

Best and Fairest on the day was Jake Barner. Many of the students look forward to competing in the competition next year.

Miss Murphy
Coach

Zone and Regional Swimming

A team of 35 students travelled to Scone on the 22nd of February to compete in the Zone Swimming Carnival. Muswellbrook High was well represented on the day with at least one MHS student in every race.

The following students were Zone Age Champions on the day...

12 Years Boys- Damon Boeckz

13 Years Boys- Phil Ryan

16 Years Boys- John Langley

13 Years Girls- Ashley Merrick

We then had ten students represent our Zone at the Regional Carnival which was held at Maitland Pool on the 6th of March. Muswellbrook High Students again performed quite well.

Two students- John Langley and James Medhurst have now been invited to compete at the State Carnival which will be held at Sydney Olympic Park on the 1-3 of April. We wish them the best of luck.

Miss Murphy
CHS Organiser

TRIATHLON

On Wednesday 7th of March the first ever Muswellbrook High School Triathlon team consisting of John Langley (Swim), Jonathon Logan (Bike) and Thomas Sparre (Run) travelled to Penrith Regatta Centre to compete in the All Schools Triathlon.

The event attracted over 2000 competitors and the boys worked extremely well as a team and put in a great amount of effort. The boys finished 13th out of 259 all schools teams which placed them third out of the government schools in the state and they received a CHS Bronze Medal.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Langley for transporting the boys and the team looks forward to competing again next year.



Miss Murphy
CHS Organiser

Group 21 Knockout

On Sunday 18th March Muswellbrook High School Rugby League teams travelled to Scone for the Group 21 School Competition. The U13's boys' rugby league team played their first rugby league matches in Muswellbrook High School jerseys. The first game they played was against rugby league power house Farrer Agricultural. To their credit, Muswellbrook took it straight to the Tamworth based team and surprised many with a comfortable 20 to 6 win. Standout performers were Bailey Taylor and Zac Butler. The victory placed the boys in the finals against rivals St. Joseph's Aberdeen. In a tight contest Muswellbrook High School jumped out to an early lead with two tries in the first half. In the second half the game ebbed and flowed with neither team taking control of the match. St. Joseph's scored with five minutes left to create a grandstand finish. In the end Muswellbrook High School held on with some desperate defence on their own line. Final Score was 10-6 with Thomas Pickersgill winning man of the match scoring both tries.

The U14's team were keen to show the other teams why they were the reigning premiers for 2011. They got off to a great start against Scone High. In an almost tryless game from Scone, Muswellbrook took front and centre and put on 6 tries (Brad Collett- 2, Jake Parker- 2, and 1 a piece for Alex Armstrong and Bryce Beverstock), with 6 successful conversions by Anaru Komene. A try late in the second half from Scone brought the final score to 36-4. With a game break it was back to the park against St. Josephs. Although a low scoring game, SJA were the stronger side, showing greater discipline for the game. They snuck through our defensive line twice, and converted one try. Bradley Collett was the only try scorer for the U14's. The final score was 10-6 to SJA. The U14's although defeated in this competition are showing more maturity and strength and are going to be a strong and contending team for 2012.

It was a great effort by both teams on the day and we now look forward to the Buckley Shield (U14's Week 11) and Knights Knockout in Term 2.

Mrs C Hagan



Electric Vehicle Competition 2012

Muswellbrook High School will be again competing in the Tom Farrell Institute for the Environment's Electric Vehicle Competition. Mr Joel Faunt and the team were very excited to find out New Coal has donated \$10,000 to Upper Hunter School entries and prize money.

Our team is keen to finish last year's entry and add to it with a dual seater and a single for the schools division.

We will be again counting on the invaluable support of Zack at Zack's Automotive and Mrs Pam King from King Cycle Works and looking for technical assistance from parents' and the community with fabrication. If you would like to help with fabrication please contact Joel by phoning school or more directly by emailing Joel at Joel.Faunt2@det.nsw.edu.au

Ms Wendy Wales
Liaising Teacher

Peer Support

At the beginning of the year thirty Year 10 students were trained as Peer Support Mentors. The Peer Support Program is a peer led approach to enhance the mental, social and emotional wellbeing of young people. Year 7 students were broken into 12 groups and have met their mentors weekly to work through activities, discussions and games.



On Tuesday the 6th of March the groups participated in Clean Up Australia Day with the goal of cleaning up all the rubbish across our school. All students participated with enthusiasm and collected many garbage bags full of rubbish. Well done to all involved!

Miss Murphy
Peer Support Organiser



P & C Committee Report

In March we held our AGM where our new executive for 2012 was elected as follows:

President: Jenni Bullivant,

Vice Presidents: Candice Sparre and Graham Whitehead

Secretary: Sandra Langley

Treasurer: Dianne Watts

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Vanessa Smith

Our representative on the School's Budget committee will be Pam King, on the curriculum committee Jenni Bullivant, while Jenni and Zeta Rowlands will represent the P&C on the School Improvement Committee.

Our Patrons for 2012 remain Pam King, Carol Hutchison, Lily MacNamarra, Dot Pottinger, Graham Whitehead and Jean West.

We look forward to another year and thank the outgoing executive for all their hard work during 2011, especially Vanessa Smith who decided to retire from her role as Treasurer. Vanessa has done a great job managing and investing our P&C Funds for the past 3 years and for her commitment and enthusiasm we are very grateful.

The school grounds continue to improve and the P&C is eagerly awaiting the installation of lighting outside the MPC, funded by P&C money donated for the upgrade of the driveway and MPC area. This lighting will make leaving evening events at the MPC much safer.

At our general meeting, which followed we welcomed teachers Mrs Tracy Henderson and Mr Joel Faunt.

Tracy Henderson kept us informed about issues in the Teachers Federation and how some planned Government proposals will affect our staff and students. She will be keeping us informed and the P&C will continue to support our great staff and students in any ways we can to ensure MHS will remain an excellent centre of education for our children.

Also, Joel Faunt gave us a look into our new school website, which he has been developing and will be launched very soon. The P&C thanked Joel for his hard work. It is exciting and will be very informative as well as newsworthy.

With the help of Zeta Rowlands, MHS has reintroduced Horse Sports and the P&C funded 5 saddle cloths and 5 brow bands which are worn by the horses when they compete. Zeta brought in one set of the finished products and the horses will now be smartly dressed in blue and gold saddle cloths bearing the MHS emblem and blue and gold brow bands. No doubt we will be hearing more about our new equestrian team later in the year.

The P&C would like to congratulate the Triathlon Team of John Langley, Jonathon Logan and Thomas Sparre for their 3rd place in the Combined High Schools Section of the All Schools Triathlon -another new team for MHS.

Mr Scott Copland has been busy designing a school cap and he brought along drawings of his many and different ideas. These will be shown to the SRC, who will choose some of the designs, which will then be made up. Then, hopefully one will stand out and be liked best by the students so that it can be approved by the Uniform Committee.

The P&C also committed up to \$6 000.00 for the recladding and guttering of a shed, as part of the projects to upgrade our school grounds and facilities.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10th May, 2012 at 7 pm in the school library. At this meeting Gareth will be presenting the findings of a recently conducted interview process to discover ways MHS can improve aboriginal education and outcomes.

All are welcome

Sandra Langley
P & C Committee

Uniform Shop

Just a reminder that you can view all the information regarding the uniform on our school website. Alternatively, there are price lists students can pick up anytime on the shop door.

Hours

Tuesday 7.30 – 11.30am

Thursday 12 – 4pm

Cash or EFT-POS only

(Daylight Sportswear no longer accepts cheques.)

Mobile Phone: 0439 118 033

(only turned on during opening hours)

Vanessa



DENMAN SANDY HOLLOW JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

IS FIELDING TEAMS FROM 6 YEARS TO 16 YEARS IN 2012

Registration is \$50 and Includes; SHORTS, SOCKS and CLUB POLO SHIRT,

New Registrations will also receive TRAINING SHORTS

REGISTRATIONS for ALL age groups are on Tuesday afternoons from 4.45pm to 6.00pm at Denman Oval.

(Both Player and Parent need to Sign) Alternatively call Registrar Kate Wolfgang on 65472029/0401027333

New registrations require; 2 PASSPORT PHOTOS & COPY of BIRTH CERTIFICATE

THE DENMAN 18S ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR PLAYERS TO SIGN UP PLEASE PHONE JAY SHEPERDSON ON 0438494222 ASAP!

Peter Barry

0428625713

Secretary

Denman Sandy Hollow JRLFC



School Reunion

The class of 1975-1978 are searching for people who attended Muswellbrook High school in

Years 7 – 10 for a reunion that will be held in October this year. Please send contact details to Tracie King at tmk0762@gmail.com or Rod Bowd rodbowd@westnet.com.au for further information.

Thanks
Tracie King

What's your true North?

Finding your direction isn't always easy...

A year ago, seventeen year-old Michelle was shy and timid, scared of the future and lacking passion for life. She didn't know where it would take her, and to be honest, didn't really care. She'd had enough.



OUTWARD BOUND
Inspiring Australians

Sound familiar? The end of school is exciting, but it's also a confusing and challenging time. Like many of you now, Michelle wasn't sure where she was going in life.

Today, it's a different story for Michelle; she knows what she wants and knows how to go get it. The world is her Oyster.

How'd she do it? She attended a 12-day Outward Bound Youth Navigator Course where she learnt about her strengths, her weaknesses and spent some quality time with herself to find out what motivates her – while having the adventure of a lifetime!

Outward Bound Australia offers inspiring wilderness courses for students who are seeking adventure and want to discover and develop their potential. Not only will you get the chance to climb, abseil, navigate, paddle and camp, you'll make new friends and spend some quality time with the most important person in your life – you!



Just as Michelle experienced, an Outward Bound course will help you learn things about yourself and others that can't be taught in a classroom.

"It was an opportunity to search far beyond myself and discover a whole new side of me," said Michelle. "The course has guided me on what way to go from now, how to lead my life and how to lead as a role model. Thanks Outward Bound, for showing me to aim high, have mystery, keep it real and realise we're meant to stretch our comfort zone, beyond the harbours and sail the oceans."

Outward Bound is now taking enrolments for courses and has specially reserved places for students from your school

- Youth Navigator: **12 days** in ACT's Namadgi National Park for students **aged 15-17**, held in the April school holidays - \$1,875
- Adult Pinnacle: **14 days** in scenic Northern NSW for **people over 18**, held in June - \$2275
- Summit to Sea: The ultimate adventure – **26 day** adventure for **people over 18**, through three states and over Kosciuszko from ACT to the Victorian coast, held next January 2013, before Uni starts - \$4195



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples: Facilities and Support in the Upper Hunter

Aboriginal Faculty and Community Partner Upper Hunter TAFE's

- Responsible for establishing and fostering effective relationships with the local community and industry for their designated area to identify community training needs and opportunities.
- Responsible for partnering with faculties within TAFE to develop the capabilities to assist and support Aboriginal students and groups to participate, succeed in and transition through vocational education and training into further educational studies.
- Developing new programs and initiatives for ATSI students.

Jenny Campbell – Singleton/ Muswellbrook TAFE

Singleton High School – Dare to Lead (DTL)

- DTL is based on a 3 year project financed by Coal & Allied to improve educational outcomes and facilitate training & employment opportunities for Aboriginal students at Singleton High School.
- Activities include mentoring and assistance from Aboriginal role models, school based traineeships, TAFE accredited training, industry visits, work placements and employment with project stakeholders.
- 2 Aboriginal workers are employed to see this DTL program through, working out of and in conjunction with, the Ka-Wul Educational & Cultural Resource Centre at Singleton High.
- A team works together to build strong communication with our local Indigenous community and are passionate to assist in our Indigenous children's future.

Joanne Vinson - Dare to Lead - Singleton High School - 65711199

Ka -Wul Aboriginal Educational Resource Centre

- The Ka- Wul Aboriginal Educational Resource Centre resides in the Singleton High School and is a resource for ALL students, teachers and people from the community.
- The centre has excellent access being located in SHS grounds.
- Easy place to go to and learn, socialise and get the current updates for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal activities in the local region.
- Very popular place where Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students socialise. The centre is based around **respect and pride**, who you are and where you come from
- Atmosphere is positive where everyone feels carefree and relaxed. This is the way we all learn and become friends.
- Well resourced centre with excellent reference books, DVD's and computers.
- A friendly place to chill out and get help with assignments.

Enquires: -**Sharon Bailey -Aboriginal Education-Support Officer – 65711199**

Sharon.bailey2@det.nsw.edu.au

Co-ordinator Kawul Education and Cultural Resource Centre -Singleton High School

Upper Hunter Aboriginal Family Worker

- Assisting new parents and families with children aged 0-8 years, in a culturally appropriate way to enhance parent's skills to improve educational, social and health outcomes for their children.
- Our service offers assistance to Muswellbrook, Singleton, Scone, Aberdeen, Denman, Murrurundi, and Merriwa.
- Aboriginal Family Worker is located at Muswellbrook Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am – 4pm. Singleton Ungooroo Tuesday 10am – 3pm.
- Assistance we can offer include: Parenting strategies, Personal support, Court support, Advocacy, Home Visits.
- The Upper Hunter Aboriginal Family Worker respects client privacy and confidentiality at all times.
- We are located at the **QE11 Building - Cnr Bridge & Market Streets Muswellbrook**

Other services available for Aboriginal Families

- Native Nails course being run out of Muswellbrook TAFE. Course runs 9.30 – 5.30 on a Tuesday.
- Upper Hunter Community Services has an Aboriginal Family Worker who is based in the QE2 building in Muswellbrook. She is also available every Tuesday at Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation in George Street, Singleton from 10am to 3pm.
- Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Strategy. (AMIHS). The program aims to improve outcomes for women and babies, pre & post- natal. (see info below)
- Family Play Group at Muswellbrook South Primary from 9.30 – 11.30 every Wednesday. Also a school readiness program Warrae-Wanni, Monday – Friday 9.30 – 2.30. Muswellbrook South PS has an Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer – Mrs Jeanine Pascoe. Please contact Jeanine if you need any assistance 65431896
- Aboriginal Women's Group meets every Tuesday from 10 – 2 at Wanarauh Lands Council Building (except school holidays)
- MSOAP (Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program) run by Hunter Integrated Living. Located at Muswellbrook Community Health Centre - Hunter Integrated Living, Wilkinson Street, Muswellbrook.
- NAIDOC WEEK - 6th July 2012 is NAIDOC celebrations in Muswellbrook. NAIDOC Family Fun Day is July 8th 2012 and 13th July 2012 is the Aboriginal Elders Dinner Dance at Muswellbrook RSL.
- Muswellbrook AECG meets every school term at various locations around town. Meeting begins 4pm. Please ring Melisa Powell AECG Secretary 65425061
- Singleton AECG meetings held every school term at the Ka-wul Educational & Cultural Resource Centre, Singleton High School - 3.30 pm.

“AMIHS”

Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Service

Welcome to AMIHS!

Making a difference for mother, babies and families!

AMIHS Office 02 65 422751

Fax 02 65 422033

Days of work are Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday

Tania Riley

Aboriginal Health Education Officer

Ph – 0419146079

tania.riley@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

**SEND US A TEXT
MESSAGE**

AMIHS Area covers – Muswellbrook, Singleton, Scone, Merriwa, Murrurundi and Denman.

- Referrals can be made for any pregnant Aboriginal Women and Women with partners who are Aboriginal.
- This is a free service
- You can get care and support at any time, from thinking you are pregnant, right through until your baby is 8 weeks postnatal.

Services provided include:

- Pregnancy testing
- Regular pregnancy ‘check ups’ (antenatal visits)
- Listening to baby’s heart beat
- Blood pressure testing
- Information about staying healthy in pregnancy, choices in labour and birth, becoming a parent, the new baby, contraception and new families.
- Additional referrals to other health professionals if required (for example: diabetes educators, GPs, physiotherapists and child and family health professionals).

The Ngapaalowa Women’s Group is on at Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council every Tuesday 10 am until 2pm (not on in school holidays)

UPPER HUNTER COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE MUSWELLBROOK REGIONAL ARTS CENTRE CELEBRATES YOUTH WEEK 2012



“YOUTH SNAPS”

Friday April 20th &
Saturday April 21st

A FREE photographic workshop for youth aged between 12 and 18.

Come and find out more about digital photography, composition, technique & photo shopping with renowned local

Photographer Roger Skinner.

A digital camera can be provided if you don't have your own

The 2 day workshop includes lunch on the first day, and a field trip to the picturesque Rouchel district on the Saturday. Each participant will have the opportunity to have their work exhibited at the Muswellbrook Regional Arts Centre

Great prizes to be won!!!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL, LIMITED PLACES TO ENSURE INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

Please ring Marina to book your place
Upper Hunter Community Services Inc
Phone: 6542 3555

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SMS text messaging – Daily attendance of your child is sent to your family mobile number. If only one adult has a mobile then this will be used. This can also be used for important information regarding parent teacher meetings, issue of reports etc. The school SMS number is: **19910010**. Please add this as a contact in your mobile phone. You CANNOT phone this number, please phone using 65431033. You may send a text message at any time to this number to explain your child's absences. Please let us know if you have any problems with this texting service.

Email – We are now sending the school newsletter to as many people as possible via email. If you have an email in the family that you use regularly, please contact the school.

Websites – The school website holds a great deal of information and is a useful place for you to find out what is happening at school.

Millennium - We also have started using a website that contains all of your child's school information. This includes attendance, school reports, assessment tasks, timetables, behaviour information.

Students have a separate login to this site and they will be sent an email to their portal email address outlining how to access this site.

Families are able to see the whole family at a glance and need a family login. This will be sent to you via an email if you have one already and in several weeks if you have just added one.



Muswellbrook High School

PO Box 198

MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

Phone: 02 65431033

Fax: 02 65433927

E-mail: muswellbro-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Web: www.muswellbro-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Text Number: **19910010**



"Striving for excellence in a school that cares"

